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EXAMINER

YOUNG, JOHN L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/909,103

Applicant(s)

SCHULZE ET AL.

Examiner

John L Young

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/13/2004.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

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NON-FINAL REJECTION

(Paper#12/13/2004)

DRAWINGS

1. This application has been filed with drawings that are considered informal; however, said drawings are acceptable for examination and publication purposes. The review process for drawings that are included with applications on filing has been modified in view of the new requirement to publish applications at eighteen months after the filing date of applications, or any priority date claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§119, 120, 121, or 365.

CLAIM REJECTIONS — 35 U.S.C. §101

35 U.S.C. §101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful
process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or
any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a
patent therefore, subject to the conditions and requirements
of this title.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, because said claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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As per claims 1-9, as drafted said claims are not limited by language within the technological arts (see *In re Waldbaum*, 173 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1972); *In re Musgrave*, 167 USPQ 280 (CCPA 1970) and *In re Johnston*, 183 USPQ 172 (CCPA 1974) also see MPEP 2106 IV 2(b), even though said claims are limited by language to a useful, concrete and tangible application (See *State Street v. Signature financial Group*, 149 F.3d at 1374-75, 47 USPQ 2d at 1602 (Fed Cir. 1998); *AT&T Corp. v. Excel*, 50 USPQ 2d 1447, 1452 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

Note: it is well settled in the law that "[although] a claim should be interpreted in light of the specification disclosure, it is generally considered improper to read limitations contained in the specification into the claims. See *In re Prater*, 415, F.2d 1393, 162 USPQ 541 (CCPA 1969) and *In re Winkhaus*, 527 F.2d 637, 188 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1975), which discuss the premise that one cannot rely on the specification to impart limitations to the claims that are not recited in the claims." (See MPEP 2173.05(q)).

CLAIM REJECTION — 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rondo US 5,128,520; class 235/375, (Jul. 7, 1992) (herein referred to as ("Rondo").

As per claim 1, Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35; and whole document) shows: "A method for redeeming coupons, comprising; identifying products, including at least first, second and third

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products being purchased, at a purchasing outlet, said first and second products being produced by first and second product providers, respectively; reading firstly a first coupon from a first customer at the purchasing outlet; determining, at the purchasing outlet, that said first coupon is to be redeemed . . . providing said first coupon, after said modifying step, in a first container; reading secondly a second coupon from the first customer at the purchasing outlet, wherein said second coupon is the next coupon read after said first coupon; making a determination related to whether said second coupon is to be redeemed after said reading secondly step; storing, after said making step, said second coupon in a second container, different from said first container; reading a third coupon at the purchasing outlet; ascertaining that said third coupon is to be rejected; deciding not to reject said third coupon; and locating said third coupon in a third container, different from said first and second containers; reimbursing firstly for said first coupon; reimbursing secondly for said second coupon at a time different from said reimbursing firstly step, wherein each of said reimbursing firstly and said reimbursing secondly steps is made by a third party different from the first and second providers of the first and second products associated with said first and second coupons, respectively. . . .”

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Rondo lacks an explicit verbatim recital of: “modifying, at the purchasing outlet, said first coupon after said determining step for said first coupon, wherein said determining step cannot again be conducted for said first coupon after said modifying step because of one or more modifications made to said first coupon during said modifying step. . . .” even though Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows same.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above cited disclosure of Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows “modifying, at the purchasing outlet, said first coupon after said determining step for said first

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coupon, wherein said determining step cannot again be conducted for said first coupon after said modifying step because of one or more modifications made to said first coupon during said modifying step. . . .” and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing “modifying, at the purchasing outlet, said first coupon after said determining step for said first coupon, wherein said determining step cannot again be conducted for said first coupon after said modifying step because of one or more modifications made to said first coupon during said modifying step. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claim 2, Rondo shows the method of claim 1.

Rondo (col. 18, ll. 15-35; and col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-

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67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “recording transaction information related to said . . . coupon. . . .” and a “container.”

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “recording transaction information related to said related to said third coupon; retrieving said third coupon from said third container; and checking whether reimbursement is to be made for said third coupon.”

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above cited disclosure of Rondo cited above implicitly shows “recording transaction information related to said related to said third coupon; retrieving said third coupon from said third container; and checking whether reimbursement is to be made for said third coupon. . . .” and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing “recording transaction information related to said related to said third coupon; retrieving said third coupon from said third container; and checking whether reimbursement is to be made for said third coupon. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*”

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(see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claims 3-4, Rondo shows the method of claim 1.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption during a particular time. . . . [claim 3]”; and “removing said third coupon from said third container; obtaining information from said third coupon using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the purchasing outlet; and using said information in determining whether to reimburse for said third coupon . . . [claim 4].”

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is

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submitted for redemption during a particular time. . . .[claim 3]”; and “removing said third coupon from said third container; obtaining information from said third coupon using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the purchasing outlet; and using said information in determining whether to reimburse for said third coupon . . . [claim 4].”

Official Notice is taken that both the concepts and the advantages of: “said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption during a particular time. . . .[claim 3]”; and “removing said third coupon from said third container; obtaining information from said third coupon using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the purchasing outlet; and using said information in determining whether to reimburse for said third coupon . . . [claim 4]. . . .” were notoriously well known and expected in the art at the time of the invention because and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption during a particular time. . . .[claim 3]”; and “removing said third coupon from said third container; obtaining information from said third coupon

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using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the purchasing outlet; and using said information in determining whether to reimburse for said third coupon . . . [claim 4]. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

Claim 5 is rejected for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

As per claim 6, Rondo shows the method of claim 1.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “said reimbursing first step is made to an entity associated with the purchasing outlet. . . .”

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Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “reimbursing . . . within about one day after said providing step and said reimbursing secondly step is made to the entity more than one day after said storing step.”

Official Notice is taken that both the concepts and the advantages of: “reimbursing . . . within about one day after said providing step and said reimbursing secondly step is made to the entity more than one day after said storing step. . . .” were notoriously well known and expected in the art at the time of the invention because and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “reimbursing . . . within about one day after said providing step and said reimbursing secondly step is made to the entity more than one day after said storing step. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

Claim 7 is rejected for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

As per claim 8, Rondo shows the method of claim 1.

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Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “reimbursing the third party service provider by the first product provider. . . .”

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “reimbursing . . . after said reimbursing firstly step.”

Official Notice is taken that both the concepts and the advantages of: “reimbursing . . . after said reimbursing firstly step. . . .” were notoriously well known and expected in the art at the time of the invention because and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “reimbursing . . . after said reimbursing firstly step. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

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Claim 9 is rejected for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

As per claim 10, Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35; and whole document) shows: "A system for redeeming coupons, a device that reads a first coupon, a second coupon, and a third coupon, wherein at least said first and second coupons are from a first customer and said second coupon is read next after said first coupon; processing apparatus in operative communication with said device, said processing apparatus determining that said first coupon is to be redeemed and modified, determining that said second coupon is to be redeemed and audited, and determining that said third coupon is to be rejected; a first storage unit that stores said first coupon; a second storage unit that stores said second coupon; a third storage unit that stores said third coupon, wherein said device, said processing apparatus, and each of said first, second and third storage units are located at purchasing outlet at which said first, second, and third coupons are presented for redemption; and means for issuing payment related

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to reimbursement for redemption of said first coupon and said second coupon, said means for issuing payment being operated to reimburse for said second coupon at a time different from being operated to reimburse for said first coupon.”

Rondo lacks an explicit verbatim recital of: “said processing apparatus determining that said first coupon is to be redeemed and modified. . . .” even though Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows same.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above cited disclosure of Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows “said processing

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apparatus determining that said first coupon is to be redeemed and modified. . . .” and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing “said processing apparatus determining that said first coupon is to be redeemed and modified. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claim 11, Rondo shows the system of claim 10.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to said second coupon including an identify of the purchasing outlet, and identity of a purchasing outlet lane at which said second

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coupon was submitted for redemption, and a time at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption.”

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to said second coupon including an identify of the purchasing outlet, and identity of a purchasing outlet lane at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption, and a time at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption.”

Official Notice is taken that both the concepts and the advantages of: “said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to said second coupon including an identify of the purchasing outlet, and identity of a purchasing outlet lane at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption, and a time at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption. . . .” were notoriously well known and expected in the art at the time of the invention because and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to said second coupon including an identify of the purchasing outlet, and identity of a purchasing outlet lane at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption, and a time at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon*

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redemption process faster. . . .” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claim 12, Rondo shows the system of claim 10.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “a coupon reader device and the system further includes a product reader device different from said coupon reader device.”

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: “a coupon reader device and the system further includes a product reader device different from said coupon reader device.”

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above cited disclosure of Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col.

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6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows : “a coupon reader device and the system further includes a product reader device different from said coupon reader device. . . .” and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “a coupon reader device and the system further includes a product reader device different from said coupon reader device. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claim 13, Rondo shows the system of claim 10.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67;

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col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a processor that receives information obtained by said processing apparatus related to said third coupon.”

Rondo lacks an explicit verbatim recital of: “a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a processor that receives information obtained by said processing apparatus related to said third coupon.”

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above cited disclosure of Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: “a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a

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processor that receives information obtained by said processing apparatus related to said third coupon. . . .” and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: “a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a processor that receives information obtained by said processing apparatus related to said third coupon. . . .”, because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means “*to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to “*speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . .*” (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

As per claim 14, Rondo shows the system of claim 10.

Rondo (col. 10, ll. 47-60; col. 11, ll. 62-67; col. 12, ll. 1-2; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 2A; FIG. 2B; FIG. 3; FIG. 3A; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 14; FIG. 15A; FIG. 15B; FIG. 15C; FIG. 15E; col. 1, ll. 5-15; col. 2, ll. 30-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-15; col. 5, ll. 5-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67;

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col. 18, ll. 1-35) implicitly shows: "said means for issuing payment includes at least one of a check writer and a wire transfer to an account."

Rondo lacks an explicit recital of: "said means for issuing payment includes at least one of a check writer and a wire transfer to an account."

Official Notice is taken that both the concepts and the advantages of: "said means for issuing payment includes at least one of a check writer and a wire transfer to an account. . . ." were notoriously well known and expected in the art at the time of the invention because and it would have been obvious to modify and interpret the disclosure of Rondo cited above as implicitly showing: "said means for issuing payment includes at least one of a check writer and a wire transfer to an account. . . ." , because modification and interpretation of the cited disclosure of Rondo would have provided means *"to make the coupon redemption process faster. . . ."* (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50), based on the motivation to modify Rondo so as to *"speed the checkout process and make the clearing process more efficient. . . ."* (see Rondo (col. 2, ll. 43-50).

CONCLUSION

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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P. O. Box 1450

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Any response to this action may be sent via facsimile to either:

(703) 746-7239 or (703) 872-9314 (for formal communications EXPEDITED PROCEDURE) or

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications marked AFTER-FINAL) or

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Hand delivered responses may be brought to:

Seventh floor Receptionist

Crystal Park V

2451 Crystal Drive

Arlington, Virginia.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Young who may be reached via telephone at (703) 305-3801. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, may be reached at (703) 305-8469.

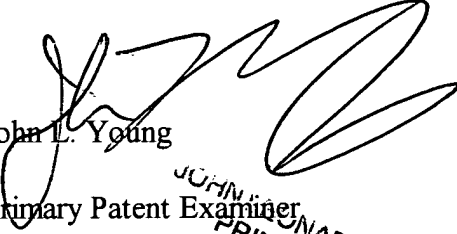
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


John L. Young

Primary Patent Examiner

JOHN L. YOUNG, ESQ.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 13, 2004